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MEDICAL MAGAZINES

10. JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. February 27, 1960.

In a lengthy (over four columns) letter to the editor of JAMA, Dr. Joseph Berkson of the Mayo Clinic takes issue with the article on smoking and lung cancer by Surgeon General Burney that appeared in the November 28, 1959, JAMA.

Berkson writes in part: "In general, the (Surgeon General's) article is characterized by an imprecision of language and thought that renders inaccurate almost every important point it deals with. In particular, it contains some frank errors of omission and commission which are misleading with regard to the basic questions at issue." The letter then takes up many points in detail and questions whether the Burney article can "be properly designated a statement of the Public Health Service."

Immediately preceding Dr. Berkson's letter is one by Dr. David D. Rutstein, Department of Preventive Medicine, Harvard University, that says in full: "I am shocked by your editorial on smoking and lung cancer. Could you define the kind of evidence which you would accept as showing a relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer?"

This letter is followed by an editor's note saying: "See the following communication," referring to Dr. Berkson's letter.

NEWSPAPERS

11. Medical Student Blasts Cancer-Smoking Data. LOS ANGELES TIMES.
February 23, 1960.

Chicago (UPI) -- The official Journal of the Student American Medical Association today criticized the interpretation of the statistics that link lung cancer to smoking.

The criticism was made in an article written by James E. Russell, a third-year student at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. His article said "studies, unsupported by corroborative experimental data, show only the number of smokers who have lung cancer."

12. Smog in L.A. Blamed for Lung Cancer. HOLLYWOOD (Calif.) CITIZEN-NEWS.
February 18, 1960.

Dr. Michael B. Shimkin, chief of the statistical section of the National Cancer Institute, said "there's not much question" that air pollutants contributed to the increase in lung cancer incidence in Los Angeles. In a speech at the University of Southern California School of Medicine he said lung cancer was twice as great in urban areas than in rural areas according to studies made in the U.S. and England.